



County of El Dorado
Meeting Minutes
Veteran Affairs Commission

Todd Smith, District I – Alternate John Poimiroo
Chris Cockrell, District II – Alternate Roger Reynolds
Kurt Raffetto, District III – Alternate Josh Castro
Ken Welch, District IV – Alternate Tim Thompson
Daniel Browne, Jr., District V – Alternate Phillip Houseworth
Richard Todd, Acting Secretary Ex-Officio
Lauren Odell, Acting Recording Clerk of Veteran Affairs Commission

Department of Veteran Affairs
130 Placerville Drive, Suite B
Placerville CA 95667
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Thursday, August 12, 2021 @ 1200 hours

Veterans Memorial Building
130 Placerville Drive
Placerville, CA 95667

Veteran Affairs Commission Agendas and Minutes are available for viewing in the Veteran Memorial Building lobby at 130 Placerville Drive, Placerville CA 95667 and online <https://www.edcgov.us/Government/Veterans/Pages/commission.aspx> .

I. CALL TO ORDER - PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

The meeting was called to order at 12:00pm.

II. ROLL CALL

District	Present	Absent
I	John Poimiroo	Todd Smith
II	Chris Cockrell	Roger Reynolds
III	Kurt Raffetto	Joshua Castro
IV	Tim Thompson	Ken Welch
V	Dan Browne, Phil Houseworth	

III. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF GUESTS

HHS Staff – Richard Todd, Program Manager Veterans Services; Ranell Brown, Deputy Director Community Services; Patty Moley, Assistant Director of Human Services; Lauren Odell, Administrative Technician Veteran Services
Guests – USAF Colonel Austin Wiswell (Retired), Ruth Michaelson, David Zelinsky, Joseph Connolly, Jesse Rangle

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

(All items on the Consent Calendar are to be approved by one motion unless a Commission member requests separate action on a specific item including moving items to or from the Consent Calendar and adopt the Agenda and the Consent Calendar for discussion. At the appropriate time as called by the Chair, members of the public may make a comment on matters on the Consent Calendar prior to action.

Motion to adopt agenda made by Tim Thompson; Second by Dan Browne. Motion passes 5-0.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Correction to guest name requested for minutes. Motion to approve made by Dan Browne; Second by Chris Cockrell. Motion passes 5-0.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

No action items

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

VII. GUEST SPEAKER - VETERAN SPOTLIGHT – USCG Veteran Jesse Rangle

• **Veteran Careers in Federal Law Enforcement**

Jesse Rangle (Bio attached) presented to the Commission. He works with Veterans to help them translate their military experience into job experience when applying for Federal employment. Contact information to be provided to Commissioners.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. TOT funding of Intern/General Trainee position for FY21-22 (Raffetto/Todd)

Topic will be added to the agenda for next month (September).

B. Updated meeting locations and schedule for 21-22 (Poimiroo/Houseworth)

Finalization to be done outside of the meeting. Proposed Pollock Pines location for September, with Placerville as the backup. South Lake Tahoe for October. Remaining dates and locations to be determined.

IX. EX-OFFICIO REPORT – RECEIVE AND FILE (Todd)

Richard Todd presented the Ex-Officio report for the Veterans Service Office. See attached.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS – RECEIVE AND FILE

• **TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax) (Raffetto/Houseworth)**

Kurt Raffetto presented TOT report. Mini-grant application cycle is complete, and recommendations will be made at next meeting.

• **RULES (Poimiroo/Houseworth)**

Report presented by Phil Houseworth. Reminder that the bylaws dictate what the Commissioners can and cannot do.

○ **SPECIAL COMMITTEE – HOUSING (Welch/Castro)**

John Poimiroo discussed proposed housing in Pollock Pines.

• **LEGISLATIVE (Smith/Raffetto)**

No report.

• **TRANSPORTATION (Browne/Thompson)**

Dan Browne announced that South Lake Tahoe Veterans Alliance would like to provide transportation for Veterans in the South Lake Tahoe area and will continue to work on a plan.

• **BUDGET (Houseworth/Reynolds)**

No report.

• **EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT (Cockrell/Browne)**

Chris Cockrell continues to finalize the Veteran Owned Business status details. Dan Browne indicated that employers in South Lake Tahoe cannot find employees.

• **SOCIAL MEDIA (Reynolds/Poimiroo)**

John Poimiroo presented the Social Media report.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS' REPORTS – RECEIVE AND FILE

• **VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING – VETERANS HOUSE COUNCIL (Reynolds)**

Report presented

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- **AMERICAN LEGION SERVICE OFFICER** (Zelinsky)
Report presented
 - **EDC VETERANS ALLIANCE** (Poimiroo)
No report
 - **EL DORADO VETERAN RESOURCES** (Zelinsky)
Report presented.
 - **REGIONAL VETERAN EVENTS**
Dan Browne reported on several events in the South Lake Tahoe area, including an event on Aug. 23rd honoring a WWII Pearl Harbor Survivor (Revive Coffee, SLT).

XII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Vietnam Veterans Bridge Proposal (Raffetto/Castro)

Further discussion is needed. Topic will be put on agenda for September to allow for public comment on this issue.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Carol Muller – Letter of Commendation (Poimiroo)

B. South Lake Tahoe – Veteran Services (Poimiroo)

The suggestions from the meeting have been discussed and will be addressed accordingly.

C. TOT Single Mini-Grant Cycle per year (Raffetto)

TOT Committee has agreed to a single mini-grant cycle (annually) as suggested by the El Dorado Community Foundation.

XIV. GOOD OF THE ORDER (Additional Commission and HHSA Staff Comments)

Todd Smith invited Dr. Kermit Jones to speak about outreach he is doing on behalf of Veterans. He is providing medical screenings at the EDC Fair in September.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment is limited to three minutes per person.

J. Connolly; R. Michelson; A. Wiswell

XV. NEXT MEETING LOCATION, DATE & TIME

Thursday, September 9, 2021 @ 1200 Hours

Location: Pollock Pines or Placerville

ADJOURNMENT



Jesse Rangle is a Protective Security Advisor for the Department of Homeland Security, Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) in Region IX (Sacramento & Central Valley District). Prior to his current position, Jesse served as Regional Supervisory Sector Outreach Coordinator and as an embedded Infrastructure Protection Liaison Officer supporting FEMA's three Type I National Incident Management Assistance Teams and Presidentially Appointed Federal Coordinating Officials. Deployments include Unaccompanied Alien Children Operations Washington DC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Ebola Virus Disease Operations, Atlanta, Georgia, Hurricane Matthew Operations, South Carolina, Louisiana Severe Storms and Flooding Operations, Texas Severe Storms and Flooding Operations, South Carolina Severe Storms and Flooding Operations,

Hurricane Harvey Operations Austin, Texas, California Flood Operations/Oroville Dam Crisis, California Wildfire Operations-City of Santa Rosa, California Wildfire Operations-City of Paradise, Region IX COVID-19 Operations and California Wildfires (2020). Jesse's professional and leadership experience spans over 30 years, as an enlisted member of the United States Coast Guard, Commissioned Officer in the United States Coast Guard Reserves and Sworn California Law Enforcement Officer.

As a Peace Officer his assignments included Criminal Street Gang Detective, Crisis Negotiator, Regional Academy Recruit Training Officer and Homicide Detective. Accolades include a California Peace Officer Standard & Training Leadership Award, California Highway Patrol Stolen Vehicle Recovery 10851 CVC Pin, Santa Rosa Veterans of Foreign Wars Officer of the Year Award, Ladies Auxiliary of Veterans of Foreign Wars Award of Merit, City of Santa Rosa Rotary Club Officer of the Year Award, Regional Law Enforcement Academy Outstanding Recruit Training Officer of the Year Award, American Police Hall of Fame Distinguished Service Award, Sonoma County Sheriff's Department Bronze Medal of Merit and City of Santa Rosa Police Department Gold Meritorious Life Saving Medal.

As a Coast Guardsman, his assignments included Expeditionary Port Security Unit Executive Officer, Law Enforcement Boarding Team Officer, Boat Operations Officer, Incident Management Assistance Team Officer and Loran Station Watch Officer, Iwo Jima, Japan. Deployments include Operations Enduring Freedom, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Post Hurricane Katrina Operations, New Orleans, Louisiana, Japan Earthquake California Tsunami Operations Santa Cruz and Crescent City, California, Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill Operations and COVID19 Operations-Pacific Area Command.

Jesse earned a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration from the University of San Francisco, San Francisco, California and a Master of Science in Quality Systems Management and Lean Six Sigma Credential from the National Graduate School Falmouth, Massachusetts. Additionally, he is a FEMA Master Exercise Practitioner (MEP) and qualified National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Advanced Mishap Investigator (Maritime).

Veterans Services – August 2021 Report

Richard Todd, Acting Veterans Service Officer

- The Veteran Service Officer position is currently on hold pending a review and possible update of the job description. I will keep the VAC informed as this process moves forward as the VAC will be participating in the interview process.
- The Fiscal Assistant interviews were completed and we are in the process of completing the reference checks.
- I am happy to announce that the Senior Veterans Service Representative position held by Lance Poinsett was filled last month. The new SVSR is John Brown.
- The vacant Veterans Service Representative recruitment (John's old position) is posted to the County website and closes on 8/16/21.
- Volunteers of America utilities/rent announcement, see the Flyer.
- EDC Veteran Services Webpage is in the process of being update and should be launched before the next VAC meeting. We will send out the link to all of the commissioners.
- VAC and TOT Agenda and Minutes: The minutes and agenda for both meeting will be posted to the Veterans website in accordance with the Brown Act. Commissioners and County Staff will still receive the minutes and agenda by email. The public can access the minutes on the website or subscribe to the Veterans Services webpage to be notified when the minutes and agenda have been posted.
- Home Depot: We have been informed that Home Depot is revising their Veterans' discount program. Going forward, this is the list of accepted Veteran ID cards we were provided during our last conversation with Home Depot:
 - US Uniformed Services Privilege and Identification Card (issued by DOD) ○ Active Duty ID Cards (DOD)
 - VA Healthcare ID Cards (Issued by the VA)
 - Veterans Identification Cards (Issued by the VA) - can be requested online

The employee at Home Depot did not know why Home Depot was no longer accepting the DL with Veteran status any longer as an appropriate form of ID for the discount.

We have printed instructions in our lobby to give people who walk in and ask about it. When they call, we refer them to the VA.gov website for more information. We will also add the link to our website.

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- Court decision that millions of veterans are eligible for more GI Bill Benefits. (from the flyer)
A new court decision, if it holds, would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide billions of dollars in education benefits to more than 1 million post-9/11 veterans.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit decided Thursday that veterans who qualify for both the Montgomery GI Bill and the Post-9/11 GI Bill for multiple periods of military service should be allowed to draw benefits from each. Since the newer Post9/11 GI Bill became effective in 2009, the VA has limited veterans to benefits from one program, not both.

Under the ruling, veterans who qualify for both programs would be eligible to use one year of benefits from the Montgomery GI Bill program on top of the three years of tuition and housing assistance available through the Post 9/11 GI Bill. To read the entire Court decision, ([Click Here](#))

- The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is issuing an interim final rule to amend its adjudication regulations to establish presumptive service connection for three chronic respiratory health conditions, *i.e.*, asthma, rhinitis, and sinusitis, to include rhinosinusitis, in association with presumed exposures to fine, particulate matter. These presumptions would apply to veterans with a qualifying period of service, *i.e.*, who served on active military, naval, or air service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Persian Gulf War (hereafter Gulf War), as well as in Afghanistan, Syria, Djibouti, or Uzbekistan, on or after September 19, 2001, during the Gulf War. This amendment is necessary to provide expeditious health care, services, and benefits to Gulf War Veterans who were potentially exposed to fine, particulate matter associated with deployment to the Southwest Asia Theater of operations, as well as Afghanistan, Syria, Djibouti, and Uzbekistan. To read the entire final rule, ([Click Here](#))